

Remarks

The Official Action dated April 21, 2006 has been carefully considered. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 1-19 and 29-37. Consideration of the amendments and remarks presented herein and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 remain in the present application. Claims 21, 25, 26 and 28 have been amended herein for clarification purposes without restricting claim scope. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. Claims 20 and 27 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, it is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, and entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Claims 20 and 26 were rejected under the argument they are anticipated by the Murphy reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,523,404) under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicants are appreciative of the indication in the Office Action that claims 21-25, 27 and 28 have allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, the Examiner argued that the Murphy reference teaches an apparatus for measuring fluid level in a tank having a housing (102) including a level indicator (184) adapted to display a measured fluid level, the level indicator (184) including a first level indicating gear (188), a second level indicating gear (189) and a first indexing device (194) adapted to facilitate an incremental rotation of the second level indicating gear based on the rotation of the first level indicating gear, wherein the first indexing device is adapted to interact with a first corresponding level indicating gear (189) to substantially prevent movement of the first indexing device (194) away from the first corresponding level indicating gear (189); a float (112); an elongated flexible member (114) with a first end

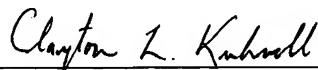
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attached to the float (112); a spool (176) adapted to store a portion of the elongated flexible member, the second end of the elongated flexible member being attached to the spool; and a biasing member adapted to urge the spool to automatically uptake portions of the elongated flexible member as the float travels towards the housing and adapted to allow the elongated flexible member to unwind from the spool as the float travels away from the housing.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as the Murphy reference is now moot in light of the cancellation of claim 20 and the amendment to claim 26. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claim 20 and amended claim 26 to depend from claim 21 which has been indicted as allowable and rewritten into independent form. Thus, Applicants believe that the objection to claim 21 and the rejection to claim 26 have been overcome. Accordingly, allowable claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form and all other rejected claims have been cancelled or amended to depend from an allowable claim.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the rejections and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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